



Port and Borough of King's Lynn.

ANNUAL REPORT

. . . OF THE . . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

. . . BY . . .

H. CALTHROP ALLINSON,

Associate of King's College, London.

WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED


THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR,

MR. J. W. SHAW,

Associate of the Sanitary Institution.

King's Lynn :

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URBAN AND PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE

1904-5.

CHAIRMAN: ALDERMAN J. T. SAVAGE.

THE MAYOR (E. DUNN, Esq.)

ALDERMEN CARPENTER, T. PATTRICK & J. J. ROLFE.

COUNCILLORS J. BARDELL, H. C. BROWN, T. BROWN,
W. H. BROWN, S. S. BURLINGHAM, R. GREEN,
A. JERMYN, W. SAVAGE and G. H. THOMAS.

Meetings: THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN EACH MONTH AT 11 A.M.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH
COMMITTEE OF KING'S LYNN.

HEALTH OFFICE,

KING'S LYNN,

March 6th, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Fourth Annual Report for your consideration, I would observe that much important work has been effected during the past year—and that for three years in succession the gross death rate of the Borough has been less than 15.5 per 1000.

The increased death rate from the seven chief epidemic diseases is greatly due to 34 deaths from diarrhœic diseases.

I have therefore devoted a considerable portion of my report to their probable causation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CALTHROP ALLINSON.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1904.

Population estimated to middle of 1904—Total 20,702.

Marriages 138.

Births	...	{	Males	304	}	Total	572.
			Females	268			

Annual Rate of Births per 1000 of Population—27·67

Deaths	...	{	Males	176	}	Total	320.
			Females	144			

Gross Annual Rate of all Deaths registered—15·45.

Net Annual Rate (less Deaths of Non-Residents in Public Institutions)—15·02.

Excess of Registered Births over Deaths—252.

Infantile Mortality 124·3 per 1000 Births.

Area of Borough 3,099 Acres.

POPULATION OF DISTRICTS AT CENSUS OF 1901.

District No.	1	...	...	5024
„	2	...	...	7547
„	3	...	...	2155
„	4	...	...	4075
„	5	...	...	1327

20,128

THESE DISTRICTS ARE MAINLY AS FOLLOWS:—

No. 1.—King's Lynn, south of Purfleet and Clough Fleet.

No. 2.—King's Lynn, north of Purfleet and Clough Fleet.

No. 3.—King's Lynn, district north of Fisher Fleet and Loke Road, and eastward of Old Town Wall to Extension Walk and South Lynn Boundary.

No. 4.—South Lynn, within the South Gates.

No. 5.—South Lynn, outside the South Gates.

A map, showing these districts, is kept at the Health Office. Upon it is also indicated the incidence of Typhoid Fever during the four years 1901-4.

Table 1.—Borough of King's Lynn.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number	Rate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	18879	507	26.85	101	199.2	386	20.44	37				
1895	19055	581	30.49	90	154.9	351	18.42	46				
1896	19230	540	28.08	66	122.22	322	16.74	48				
1897	19407	553	28.49	72	130.19	411	21.17	78				
1898	19586	573	29.25	105	183.24	412	21.03	62				
1899	19764	542	27.42	108	199.26	432	21.85	75				
1900	19944	538	26.97	64	118.95	375	18.80	53				
1901	20128	531	26.38	84	158.19	370	18.38	76	23	1	347	17.23
1902	20348	514	25.25	49	95.33	285	14.006	69	16		269	13.21
1903	20525	493	24.01	59	119.4	292	14.22	65	19	1	274	13.34
Averages for Years 1894-1903	19686.6	537.2	27.2	79.8	148.51	363.6	18.46	60.9				
1904	20702	572	27.67	71	124.3	320	15.45	55	10	1	311	15.02

Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

At CENSUS 1901.—Total Population at all Ages 20,128. Number of Inhabited Houses 4,548. Average Number of Persons per House 4·42.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by Water), 3,099.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population of King's Lynn at last Census was...	...	20,128
Estimated Population to middle of 1904...	...	20,702

This is estimated on the average annual increase (176·8) between the Census of 1891 and that of 1901.

The figures provisionally compiled by the Registrar General for the convenience of the Medical Officers of Health afford a ready comparison of the statistics of King's Lynn with the general statistics of England and Wales:

1904.

ANNUAL BIRTH-RATES AND DEATH-RATES, AND RATES FROM THE SEVEN CHIEF EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

	ANNUAL RATE PER 1000 LIVING.			INFANT MORTALITY.
	Births	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from Seven Chief Epidemic Diseases.	Annual Death rate of Infants under one year per 1000 Births.
England & Wales	27·9	16·2	1·94	146
Rural ,,	26·8	15·3	1·28	125
76 Great Towns	29·1	17·2	2·49	160
142 Small ,,	27·5	15·6	2·02	154
<hr/>				
King's Lynn	27·58	15·02	3·53	124

The death rate from all causes for the year although higher than in the preceding two years is less than the death rate for all England and Wales—less than that of Rural England, less than 76 great towns and less than 142 smaller towns—and for three years in succession the gross death rate has been below 15·45 per 1000.

The death rate for 1904 of England and Wales throughout was higher than that of 1903—this perhaps due to increased heat of the past summer—causing generally I believe considerable increase of mortality in your Borough, principally from preventible Epidemic Diarrhoea.

DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN CHIEF EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

These diseases comprise:—

	1904	1903	1902
1. Small Pox	0	0	0
2. Measles	12	0	4
3. Scarlet Fever	7	2	0
4. Whooping Cough	12	8	0
5. Diphtheria	2	1	0
6. Fevers { Typhus Typhoid Other Continued }	6	4	7
7. Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	34	13	6
Total	73	28	17

Or Rate per 1000—~~1.36.~~

3.58

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS IN DISTRICTS, 1904.

	Population at Census.	Deaths.	In Infirmary.	In Hospital.	Total.
District 1	5024	71	9	4	84
„ 2	7547	100	10	5	115
„ 3*	2155	{ 15 9 } 24	—	—	24
„ 4	4075	48	11	1	60
„ 5	1327	21	0	1	22
	20128				305

Ten Non-Residents died in West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital 10

Four deaths from accidents 4

One Stranger found drowned in Estuary Cut 1

Total Deaths Registered in King's Lynn 320

* This includes 9 Deaths occurring in Highgate, the population of which was not singularised at the Census.

Corrected Death Rate—i.e. Net, see Official Table No. 1
per 1000 15.02.

SUMMARY OF INQUESTS HELD BY MR. E. M. BELOE
BOROUGH CORONER.

Exhaustion from Pleurisy accelerated by wounds self inflicted.	
Accidental Death	By Dislocation of Neck.
Natural Causes	By Aneurysm.
Accidental Death	By Dislocation of Neck (St. Mary's)
Open Verdict	Found Drowned.
Temporary Insanity	By Cutting his Throat.
Open Verdict	Found Dead in the Wash.
Wilful Murder	By Stabbing (Foreign Sailors).
Accidental Death	By Falling into Vessel's Hold.
Natural Causes	Peritonitis.
Natural Causes	Heart Disease.
Accidental Death	Run Over in Street.
Open Verdict	Found Drowned
Accidental Death	Injuries received repairing windmill.
Accidental Death	By Scalding.

DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND OTHER
DISEASES MORE OR LESS PREVENTIBLE.

Measles	12
Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	12
Diphtheria	2
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	6
Diarrhœa	29
Enteritis	5
Erysipelas	1
Other Septic Diseases	2
Tubercular Diseases	26
Venereal	1
Alcoholism	4

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

Table IV.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SURJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).							Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District. 16
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and up- wards. 8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Measles ...	12	3	8	1				2	6	1		2	1		
Scarlet Fever ...	7	1	4	2				1	6						
Whooping-Cough ...	12	9	3					1	5	3		3			
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ...	2		2										1		1
Enteric Fever ...	6				1	5		1	1						4
Epidemic Influenza...	3							2				1			
Diarrhoea ...	29	20	5			2	2	3	13	1	3	7	1		1
Enteritis ...	5	2	1			1	1	2	3						
Phthisis ...	14			3	5	6		2	3			3	3		3
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	12	2	3	1	1	4	1	3	3	1			3		2
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	14			1		8	5	2	3			4			5
Bronchitis ...	35	6	9			5	15	10	11	1	2	2	3		6
Pneumonia ...	15	1	8			6		6	2	1	1	3	1		1
Pleurisy ...	1					1						1			
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs ...	2					2		2							
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ...	4					4		1	2						1
Venereal Diseases ...	1	1							1						
Premature Birth ...	11	11						5	3			2	1		
Heart Diseases ...	32		1	3	2	12	14	4	8	3	1	7	1		8
Accidents ...	6		1			3	2								6
Suicides ...	1					1	2		1						
Renal and Prostatic...	10	1	1			6	2	2	2			1	1		4
Old Age ...	24						24	10	4	1	2	1			6
All Other Causes ...	62	14	3	2	7	18	18	12	23	3		11	5	1	7
All Causes ...	320	71	49	13	16	85	86	71	100	15	9	48	21	1	55

TABLE III.—Borough of King's Lynn.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY					
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.				1	2	3	4	5	6
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65					
Diphtheria ...	19		7	6	2	4	4	1		5	5
Erysipelas ...	10		2	2	1	5	4			3	3
Scarlet Fever ...	171	2	38	102	24	5	91	35		13	2
Enteric Fever ...	47		3	24	11	9	31	4		2	
Totals ...	247	2	50	134	38	23	130	40		23	10

SMALL POX.

Another year has passed without an invasion of this disease. During the weeks ending February 4th and February 11th of this present year 175 Cases have been notified in the provinces, mainly in North Midland Towns and certain ports in the North.

SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever in Lynn as throughout the country was very abundant. Districts that have adopted notification of infectious diseases—comprising a population of over 14 millions—have yielded each week from one to two thousand notifications of Scarlet Fever.

Experience is, I think, amply demonstrating that except in very small communities hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is not yielding the once anticipated results.

CONSUMPTION OR TUBERCULAR DISEASES OF THE LUNGS AND OTHER ORGANS.

Caused 26 deaths. Again I feel compelled to call attention to the dangerous neglect of cleansing the roadways and pavements, and I repeat the remarks I made last year.

“In many Towns, in nearly all the Railway Stations, great publicity is now given by printed placards as to the dangers of spitting. As Medical Officer of Health I have been reproached on several occasions that such placards are not exhibited in Lynn, such a step is certainly advisable, but has seemed to me premature and bordering upon the ridiculous, whilst pollution of all sorts is persistently allowed to remain upon the pavements until removed by the force of the traffic and the weather.”

One side of New Conduit Street is persistently filthy—the other side less so as some of the householders wash their frontage pavements. The same dirty condition is persistently observable in St. James' Street from the Theatre to the new building of the Public Library.

I am aware that the control of the streets has passed away from the Health Committee, but I would respectfully suggest that a recommendation from yourselves to the proper authorities would do much to improve the health and convenience of all.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Forty-seven cases of Typhoid Fever were notified during 1904. All were apparently of local origin; there were six deaths. Twenty-seven of these cases occurred in North Street, Pilot Street and the Streets on the Loke Road.

These streets have yielded during four years more than a quarter of the total cases notified.

In my last report I expressed my opinion that the persistence of Typhoid Fever was due to pollution of the excellent water supply by defective smaller mains and service pipes.

A Sub-Committee was appointed to visit the locality of each case, but nothing resulted to reveal the probability of other causation. In one case a man had eaten a great number of clams—developed Typhoid Fever, was notified on June 11th and at once removed to a Public Institution where he died June 17th.

On July 17th another case was notified occurring in the same house, who never ate shell fish of any sort.

A Special Committee to investigate the causation of Typhoid Fever was appointed, and on October 13th compared the spot maps I had prepared with a map shewing the water service of the town—and recommended the Water Works Committee to examine certain mains, in particular the mains in the Loke Road district.

The connection between the Loke Road main with that of Pilot Street was discontinued (the exact date I have been unable to ascertain) and an active examination of mains and service pipes ensued.

In September three cases were notified in the above streets, four in October, but from October the 27th to the present date no further case has been notified in this district and two only in the whole borough.

If this extraordinary diminution of Typhoid Fever is due alone to increased vigilance, it is not superfluous to suggest that such vigilance should never be relaxed, for as I stated in my first

annual report "I would remark that with such soil as that upon which Lynn rests, every inch reclaimed from the salt marshes, and the subsoil influenced by the rise and fall of each tide, we must never rest too confident, but realize that mains that have been tight and secure may possibly at any time become faulty."

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

Caused the large number of thirty-four deaths—twenty-two of the Infants dying before attaining the age of one year died from this preventible disease.

Thirty-one of the thirty-four cases died between July 30th and September 24th. Fifteen of which were duly certified as dying from "Epidemic Diarrhœa," a term recommended by the Registrar General to be used in preference to the looser terms of "Diarrhœa"—Diarrhœa of Infants—"Enteritis," etc., which terms fail to indicate the probable causation of the Diarrhœa, for Diarrhœa is but a symptom of many diseases and many temporary disorders.

It is probable that all the thirty-one cases were due to "Epidemic Diarrhœa," a disease generally of filth causation and preventible.

General neglect of sanitary precautions is the main cause of this disease: in particular the allowing of putrefiable matter to remain upon a porous soil, forming a poisonous condition, which directly by emanations from the soil, or indirectly possibly by insect contamination of food, brings about the disease.

In Town as well as in Rural Districts this disease is always prominent in neglected properties, with their usual features, faulty drainage, the neglect of removal of refuse and soil polluted by middens.

The essential cause resides ordinarily in the superficial layer of the soil, generally remaining harmless until fostered into activity by continuous summer heats.

The outbreak of disease is said not to commence until continuous heat has increased the temperature of the subsoil to 56° Fahrenheit, indicated by a four foot earth thermometer.

Excessive drought as well as excessive rain impedes the development of the disease.

As Epidemic Diarrhœa is not a notifiable disease the only indication of its incidence is obtainable from the certificates of death in cases of fatal termination.

Examining the certificates of deaths of the thirty-one cases occurring between July 20th and September 24th, we find,

Twenty-three died in King's Lynn north of Purfleet.

Seven died in King's Lynn south of Purfleet.

One died in King's Lynn outside South Gates.

With barely an exception examination of the localities affected supports very decidedly the opinion generally held, that *surface neglect* is the predominating factor of Epidemic Diarrhœa.

The total absence of cases on the Gaywood Road, Tennyson Avenue, Goodwin's Road, new Streets on Saddlebow and Wisbech Roads, Sir Lewis Street and other newer streets on the Loke Road is particularly to be remarked.

Badly cobbled streets, lanes, courts and yards, muddy ill kept back yards reeking with neglect, past and present, appear to be the main hatching grounds of Epidemic Diarrhœa.

THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Under Sec. 132 of this Act, the Council's Medical Officer of Health is now required in his Annual Report to report specifically upon the administration of this act in workshops and work places so far as the matters under the charge of the council are concerned, and to send a copy of his report, or of so much of it as deals with this subject to the Secretary of State.

In your Inspector's Report, which is appended, will be found such specific report as I believe is required, and as Medical Officer of Health, I report that this Act is administered in this Borough in an efficient manner, so far as matters under the charge of the Borough Council are concerned.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

ANNUAL REPORT
... OF ...
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TOWN HALL,
KING'S LYNN.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Sixth Annual Report upon the work of the Sanitary Department during the year ending December, 1904.

Systematic inspection of the district is effected as far as possible.

The demolition of house properties in Miller's Yard, Taylor's Court, and Rudkin's Yard, Queen Street, will rid the Borough of one of its most insanitary areas.

Special attention has been given to the enforcing of the Bye-Laws with reference to the paving of insanitary Yards and Courts, and a marked improvement in their condition is to be observed annually.

A very considerable amount of time has been given in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health, in investigating cases of Typhoid Fever and other infectious diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN W. SHAW,

Assoc. R. San. Instn.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES.

DRAINAGE.

New Drains Laid	...	...	...	...	42
Drains Repaired	...	...	...	...	50
Rain Water Pipes discontinued from the Sewer	...	...	...	...	34
Defective Ventilating Shafts repaired	...				5
House Drains Smoke Tested	...	...			62

W.C. ACCOMMODATION.

Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	...				4
Defective Urinals	...	...	...	...	4
Midden Privies Abolished	...	...	...		31
Decomposing Pools Abolished	...	...			2
Defective W.C's Repaired	...	...	...		19

MISCELLANEOUS.

Accumulations of Manure	...	...	...		109
Insanitary Cowsheds	...	...	...		5
Yards Repaved	...	...	...	...	31
Defective Manure Bins	...	...	...		8
Sanitary Ash Bins Supplied	...	...			11
Defective Eave Spouts and Fall Pipes	...				35
Accumulations of Offal in Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	17
Dirty Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	10
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	...	9
Insanitary Stables	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	2
Damp Walls	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from Fowls	...	...	...		13
Nuisances from Pigs	...	...	...		7
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	52

PREMISES REQUIRING INSPECTION.

The number of registered, licensed and other premises requiring inspection as shewn in the following table, viz:—

Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	16
Bone Boilers and Fat Melters	...	...			3

Workshops and Factories	...	...	...	172
Bake Houses	...	...	...	52
Cow Sheds	...	...	...	23
Milk Shops	...	...	...	37
Marine Store Dealers	...	...	...	2
Fellmongers	...	...	...	2
Horse Slaughterers	...	...	...	2

SITUATION OF SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Lift's Yard, Norfolk Street.
 Paradise Lane (2).
 Softley's Yard, Broad Street.
 Union Lane.
 High Street.
 Nar Bank, Southgate Street.
 London Road.
 Back of Highgate House, Highgate.
 Hardwick Road.
 Littleport Street.
 Windsor Road.
 Norfolk Street (2).
 Chapel Street.
 Nar Bank, Wisbech Road.

HORSE SLAUGHTERERS.

Wisbech Road.
 Highgate.

Regular inspection of the slaughter houses and horse slaughtering premises has been made during the year, and with but few exceptions they were found to be kept in good order, generally the exceptions were found to be the result of carelessness on the part of the employees rather than wilful disregard of the bye-laws by the occupiers.

Nine reports were received of carcasses on slaughter to be diseased, of these five were destroyed, the remaining four the parts affected and viscera only.

On March 21st, I seized from a shop a quantity of beef which was unfit for human food. The case was taken before the magistrates and they found that the meat had been properly seized and condemned, but dismissed the case on the grounds that the occupier of the shop was absent at the time of the seizure and that it could not be proved that he had knowledge that the meat was unfit for human food.

INSPECTIONS.

Nine hundred and thirty inspections of slaughter houses and horse slaughtering premises were made. One application for renewal of slaughter house license was granted.

FORFEITED MEAT.

Feb.	11th,	Carcase of Beef,	Local Tuberculosis
Feb.	24th,	„	„
March	28th,	„	Gen.
April	6th,	„	„
April	26th,	„	„
May	18th,	„	Local
June	10th,	„	of Pork
June	14th,	„	Beef, Gen.
July	18th,	„	Local
Aug.	9th,	„	of Mutton

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

There are one hundred and seventy two factories and workshops registered in the Borough.

The following is a list of insanitary conditions found, viz :—

Dirty Bakehouses	...	...	...	5
Dirty Workshops	...	...	...	14
Notices under Sec. 3 (4) not exhibited				15
Insanitary Conveniences	...	...		7
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...		4
Overcrowding	...	...	...	3
Insufficient Sanitary Conveniences	...			4

Nine intimations from H.M. Inspector of Factories have been received of the opening of workshops in the Borough.

COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Sixty four cow sheds and dairies have been inspected at various times during the year. Three cowsheds have been much improved in reference to the laying of impervious floors and water supply.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No. of Rooms and Wards disinfected	...	94
No. of Articles Treated at the Disinfector...		452
No. of Vehicles	... ..	10

PORT SANITARY.

During the year ending December, 1904, one hundred and thirty three ships were inspected, viz:—

Foreign Steamers	...	56
Foreign Sailing Ships	...	23
British Coasting Ships	...	32
British Coasting Steamers	...	27
Fishing Vessels	...	19
Canal Boats	...	75

The forecastles and deck houses of thirteen ships were found to be in a dirty condition, viz:—

British	...	7
Foreign	...	6
Canal Boats	...	2

15

Attention has been given to the inspection of ships coming from infected ports.

CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

1904.

Inspections of seventy five canal boats were made; no sickness of any infectious nature was met with, and generally their sanitary condition was good.

Infringements of the Acts were dealt with as follows:—

Dirty Cabins	...	...	...	...	2
Broken Ventilators	...	...	...	...	1

A visit was paid to King's Lynn by H.M. Inspector of Canal Boats in August last.

JOHN W. SHAW,

Canal Boat Inspector

